

wherein said polypeptide is encoded by said nucleotide subsequence, and

wherein said nucleotide subsequence is selected from the group consisting of:

a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO 1;

b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO 2, or a biologically active polynucleotide derivative of SEQ ID NO 2;

c) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO 3, or a biologically active polynucleotide derivative of SEQ ID NO 3;

d) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO 4;

e) a nucleotide sequence having at least 12 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, and SEQ ID NO 4;

f) a nucleotide sequence having a sequence fully complementary to a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, and SEQ ID NO 4; and

g) a nucleotide sequence hybridizing under stringent hybridization conditions with a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, and SEQ ID NO 4.

57. (Amended) A purified polypeptide of Claim 56 which is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 5;

b) a polypeptide comprising from amino acid in position 1 to amino acid in position 48 of SEQ ID NO 5;

c) a polypeptide comprising from amino acid in position 60 to amino acid in position 100 of SEQ ID NO 5;

d) a polypeptide comprising at least one antigenic portion of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 5;

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e) a polypeptide comprising at least one antigenic portion of the amino acid sequence from amino acid in position 1 to amino acid in position 48 of SEQ ID NO 5; and

f) a polypeptide comprising at least one antigenic portion of the amino acid sequence from amino acid in position 60 to amino acid in position 100 of SEQ ID NO 5.

Please add the following new claim:

Q3
71. (New) A purified polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID 1, 2, 3, or 4.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have amended Claims 56 and 57 to obviate the criticisms outlined on pages 3 and 4 of the Official Action. Support for amended Claims 56 and 57 can be found in the same claims, as previously filed. Applicants have also added new Claim 71. Support for new Claim 71 can be found in Claim 56, as previously filed.

No new matter has been added. Claims 56-71 are active in this application.

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants' representative wishes to thank Examiner Swartz for the helpful and courteous discussion held with him on July 17, 2002, during which the prosecution of the above-identified application was materially advanced. The following remarks will expand and summarize the issues discussed.